



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management • Arizona

Congressional Staff Briefing
Thursday, February 24, 2005 • 9 a.m.

Agenda

Welcome and Comments

Elaine Zielinski
BLM Arizona State
Director

BLM Arizona Organizational Changes and
2006 Budget Realities

Carl Rountree
Associate State Director

Recreational Shooting Update

Mike Taylor,
Deputy State Director,
Resources

Kay McLoughlin,
Rep. Kolbe's Office

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Don Applegate
Recreation Program Lead,
Resources

Land Use Planning Updates

Mike Taylor
Deputy State Director,
Resources

Wild Horse and Burro Sale Authority

Kelly Grissom,
Wild Horse and Burro
Program Lead, Resources

BLM Field Tour

Elaine Zielinski

Information Sharing

Congressional Staff

Bureau of Land Management • Arizona State Office

Congressional Staff Briefing
Thursday, February 24, 2005

Congressional Staff Expected

Senator John McCain (R)
Crystal Caballero - No

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
Andy Jacobs - No

Dist. 1 Congressman Rick Renzi (R)
Joanne Keene

Dist. 2 Congressman Trent Franks (R)
Shari Farrington - No

Dist. 3 Congressman John Shadegg (R)
Bruce Raden

Dist. 4 Congressman Ed Pastor (D)
Latoya Cunningham

Dist 5 Congressman J.D. Hayworth (R)
Brian Murray - No

Dist. 6 Congressman Jeff Flake (R)
Mary Baumbach - No

Dist. 7 Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
Ruben Reyes (T)

Dist. 8 Congressman Jim Kolbe (R)
Kay McLoughlin, Tucson
Bernadette Polley, Sierra Vista (T)

Elaine Zielinski
Carl Rountree
Mike Taylor
Joanie Losacco
Don Applegate
Kelly Grissom
Teri Raml
Becky Heick
Lorraine Buck



News Brief



Arizona Bureau of Land Management Organizational Effectiveness

January 2004

News Brief is a communications tool developed to keep employees informed of the current status of the decisions, actions and implementation of the Arizona BLM Organizational Effectiveness strategy. This news update will be posted to the intranet on a regular basis to provide information on the progress being made as we move forward into our new organizational structure.

Through the numerous communications to employees from the State Director since this process began, you are aware that BLM Arizona is moving to a three-tier structure. As a recap, the state will be made up of four districts:

- **Colorado River District:** Lake Havasu, Kingman and Yuma field offices with the district office located in Lake Havasu;
- **Gila District:** Safford and Tucson field offices with the district office located in Sierra Vista;
- **Phoenix District:** two field offices will be located in Phoenix, along with the district office;
- **Arizona Strip District:** one field office and a district office will be located in St. George, Utah.

A final determination on the organizational structure for the national monuments has not yet been made.

Around the State

Colorado River District

- Interviews are still being conducted for the District Manager position within the Colorado River District.

Phoenix District

- The proposed reorganization package was received by the State Office and is now in the review stage.

Gila District

- Interviews will begin for the Gila District Manager position next week, February 7, 2005.
- Shela McFarlin, Tucson Field Manager recently accepted a new position as the Special Assistant to the State Director for International Programs.
- There will be an announcement for the Tucson Field Manager position at a GS 13 level advertised in the near future. An interest announcement for an acting Field Manager will be released next week.
- Training on Change - Jana Ruth, a private consultant gave a four-hour training session on "How to Deal Effectively with Change." The workshop, which was both informative and fun, provided an opportunity for staff from the Safford and Tucson field offices, and the San Pedro Project Office to learn ways to deal with stresses that may result as the offices move from a two-tier to a three-tier structure. Much of the workshop focused on maintaining a positive attitude and reducing stress through humor and open communication. About 50 Gila District employees attended the session. Evaluations revealed that the vast majority of

participants enjoyed the training and benefited from the chance to meet, or get to know more about, their new District coworkers.

Arizona Strip District

- The proposed reorganization package was received by the State Office and is now in the review stage.

Arizona State Office

- The Organizational Effectiveness review of the State Office functions is still being conducted. The Organizational Effectiveness Work Group met on January 14 to review information received from the Statewide Employee meetings. Based on this information, program experts have been assigned to develop alternatives for conducting different State Office functions effectively and modifying the State Office's organizational structure. Responses are due back to the team by February 7. These alternatives will be posted on the web site for employee review by mid-February. The Organizational Effectiveness Work Group plans to meet again on March 11 to incorporate employee comments into final proposals. These proposals will then be submitted to the State Leadership Team for review in late-March when a final recommendation will be made.

More Information:

Information is available on the Organizational Effectiveness website at <http://web.az.corp.blm.gov/>, including all of the correspondence from the State Director, the communications plan and the principles and guidelines developed for this process.

Questions and Comments

If you have questions regarding Organizational Effectiveness, you can submit them to AZ_Org_Effectiveness@blm.org. They will be compiled into a question and answer format that will be posted and updated on the website regularly.





Recreational Target Shooting – Phoenix Area

February 2005

ISSUES:

There is a growing public concern regarding unsafe target shooting practices on public lands. For the past several decades, people have been using the area west of Interstate 17 along Table Mesa Road as an informal target shooting area. During the last five years, this activity has gone from light and dispersed to a heavy, concentrated usage. In the past, there were few known safety concerns and user conflicts. However, today, the area is highly populated with recreationists, including hikers, equestrians, sightseers and OHVs. Target shooting use is intense along Table Mesa Road and in adjoining washes. Those participating in this practice leave large amounts of trash in the area, adding to the user conflicts. The nearby communities are weary of the unsafe shooting and poor cleanup practices.

SUMMARY:

Target shooting has grown in number and intensity due to the following reasons:

- Urban interface growth and expansion
- Forest Service, Arizona State Land Department and private land owners close their lands to shooting
- Large numbers of displaced users look for new places to go
- Lack of established shooting ranges

Although target shooting is occurring ubiquitously, there are currently six main areas of immediate concern. Five of these sites are on public land and one site is on adjoining private land. State Trust land shares jurisdiction on one of the sites. The area as a whole is heavily used by recreationists. Target shooting occurs daily, with several hundred users on weekends.

The issues facing these areas are public and staff safety, user conflicts, trash/litter, resource damage, vandalism and the increased danger of fire. Concentrated target sites alone constitute a serious safety concern. Three areas along the Black Canyon Trail are in direct line of fire from recreational shooters. Some individuals have shot at the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline. At the same site, United Metro/Ranker mineral material operation has experienced signs and equipment being shot. Popular targets such as refrigerators, butane tanks, computer monitors and television sets introduce hazardous materials and trash to these sites. Illegal weapons and drugs have also been found during law enforcement patrols.

Along Table Mesa Road, trash left by recreational shooting has encouraged others to dump trash, litter and even old vehicles on these sites. In addition to user conflicts, the concentrated target shooting has led to damage of natural resources and vegetation. Several extensive clean up projects have occurred in FY-05, but within a few weeks, shooters deposit large amounts of new materials.

The BLM-Phoenix Field Office is meeting with other stakeholders to seek suitable solutions to these issues in this area. Participants in the meeting included representatives from Congressman Shadegg's Office, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, Maricopa County Supervisor Office, District 3, City of Phoenix, Rinker Materials, Rio Salado Club, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The group's initial recommendation includes, implementing an active interagency outreach program to develop ways to provide enforcement and educational outreach. This will include adopting the Arizona Game and Fish

Department's criteria of 1/4 mile setbacks from established trails, roads and recreation areas/sites. BLM rangers will promote sportsmen etiquette and responsibility while on public lands by providing target shooters with educational materials and advising them of safety concerns.

After the first meeting in January 2004, Maricopa County conducted a joint clean-up of the area over the week of January 17. Inmates from county facilities cleaned up dumps and shooting areas. BLM provided a dumpster. The next meeting to discuss future action is scheduled for March 1, 2005.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

BLM has a responsibility to ensure public safety and intends to adopt the Arizona Game and Fish Department's rules and regulations for discharging firearms and developing other target shooting policies and standards. Recreational target shooting is allowed on most areas of public lands as long as it does not conflict with other users or create a public safety concern. Visitor safety from known hazards, resource damage and illegal activities are the Bureau of Land Management's principal concerns.

The BLM, Maricopa County and others will continue to work together to resolve patrol, enforcement, jurisdiction, signing and educational issues for management of target shooting in this area.

CONTACT:

Teri, Raml, BLM Phoenix Field Manager, (623) 580-5500



Recreational Target Shooting – Tucson Area

February 2005

ISSUES:

Recreational target shooting has greatly increased within the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) over the last several years. The primary reason for this increase is population growth in the Avra Valley/Marana area. There are many individuals with residences adjacent to, and within the IFNM on private lands. There have been instances where individuals have been observed shooting toward occupied residences, other visitors, or lessees within less than a mile of those areas.

Additional concerns include, trash left by target shooters, consisting of spent cartridges, old targets, broken glass from shot bottles and clay pigeons, and damage to native vegetation. This in turn encourages dumping of trash at these sites.

SUMMARY:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes target shooting as a valid use of lands under its jurisdiction. However, BLM is concerned these activities be done in a safe and responsible manner. BLM has posted signs in the area with safety messages for target shooters. BLM has also increased the number of law enforcement rangers patrolling the area, and they have issued several citations for creating a public hazard.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

The BLM Tucson Field Office is working with the U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution based at the Udall Center to bring the general public, interest groups and agencies, including the Tucson Rod & Gun Club, Good Gun Foundation and U.S. Forest Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, together to develop solutions. These solutions may include education, additional shooting ranges, or partial closures, among others. The Institute for Conflict Resolution interviewed stakeholders with similar problems within the Tucson Basin to get a basin-wide perspective on possible solutions to the target shooting problem. A report on these interviews and recommendations was completed in February 2004. A strategy is now being developed to bring together agencies and stakeholders for a series of meetings with specific desired outcomes. The agencies hope to reach agreement on methods to reduce resource damage, improve safety, and find appropriate places for target shooters to practice their sport. Because the target shooting problem occurs throughout the Tucson Basin, the solutions should benefit the entire Tucson Basin and possibly other areas as well. A public meeting attended by approximately 260 individuals was held on May 22, 2004, to solicit information from the public about sites for recreational shooting, safety and enforcement, and education.

The dialogue has evolved into working groups, each looking at various issues. Most of the groups have developed action plans that could be implemented through partnerships or volunteers. In addition a website for recreational shooting resources is being developed and will be hosted by the Institute's web site. The website will provide contact information for the groups and agencies involved, rules and regulations, planning information and information on leasing public land.

The BLM and the FS have reiterated several basic statements at all the meetings:

1. Shooting is a legitimate use of the public lands.
2. Most public land is open to recreational shooting.
3. The public should involve itself in land use planning processes to make sure their opinions are taken into consideration.
4. The agencies have permitting authorities that would allow them to consider the development of formal shooting ranges in areas that are deemed to be suitable.
5. We will work with any proponent who may have a proposal for a formal shooting site.

Congressman Kolbe met with members of the dialogue and agencies on Dec. 13, 2005. The Institute for Conflict Resolution facilitated the meeting that included presentations from the Institute and the agencies.

A second public meeting has not been scheduled, but is likely to happen in the spring of 2005. The BLM and the FS have agreed on the above stated messages, and will also talk about their planning processes which are different in some respects.

CONTACT:

Cindy Alvarez, BLM Acting Tucson Field Manager, (520) 258-7200



Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act was passed in the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill signed into law by President Bush on December 8, 2004. The Act authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture for the next 10 years to establish, modify, charge and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation lands and waters as provided for in the Act.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act benefits visitors to Federal public lands by:

- Reinvesting a majority of fees back to the site of collection to enhance visitor services and reduce the backlog of maintenance needs for recreation facilities (including trail maintenance, toilet facilities, boat ramps, hunting blinds, interpretive signs and programs);
- Providing an interagency fee program that reduces confusion over differing fee programs and passes by reducing four national passes down to one;
- Providing more opportunities for public involvement in determining recreation fee sites and fees;
- Providing focused criteria and limits on areas and sites where recreation fees can be charged; and
- Providing more opportunities for cooperation with gateway communities through fee management agreements for visitor and recreation services, emergency medical services and law enforcement services.

Many recreation activities and sites will continue to be fee free. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act includes additional provisions that build on experiences from the Fee Demo program and improve the fee program by clarifying the circumstances in which fees may be charged. The Act prohibits certain fees for:

- General access to national forests and grasslands and Bureau of Land Management areas;
- Horseback riding, walking through, driving through, or boating through areas where no facilities or services are used;
- Access to overlooks or scenic pullouts;
- Undesignated parking areas where no facilities are provided for
- Picnicking along roads or trails; and
- In addition individuals under 16 will not be charged an entrance or standard amenity fee.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act applies to Federal recreation lands under the jurisdiction of the following land management agencies:

- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation



ARIZONA LAND USE PLANNING UPDATE

February 2005

Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw - Harquahala Land Use Plans

- BLM staff addressed 19 community association meetings and special interest groups between February 6 and June 11, 2002. Additional meetings were also conducted in September 2002 to highlight the planning schedule and effective strategies for collaboration.
- Ten (10) scoping meetings were held between September 28 and October 16, 2002
- The scoping report was approved in February 2003. First round of Alternative Formulation workshops (five) were held the week of March 3. Approximately 50 participants attended each meeting. A second round of public workshops on alternative formulation was conducted during the first week of April 2003. The alternative formulation and impact analysis stages are nearing completion. **The Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be reviewed by the State Office resources staff in February 2005. The NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published April or May 2005.**
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the City of Phoenix, City of Peoria, U.S. Forest Service, Luke Air Force Base, ADOT, FHWA, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- A contract to help the Phoenix Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to Jones and Stokes in May 2002. Due to a budget shortfall, this contract was terminated in June 2004.
- Major issues include: diverse recreation impacts and increased demand for casual and commercial recreation; increased demand for sand, gravel, and decorative rock, and municipal infrastructure; protection of fragile resources, i.e., riparian habitat and cultural sites; concern for public health and safety, i.e., hazardous materials and abandoned mines; access to public lands and transportation planning; land tenure and intermixed management jurisdictions; open space, and trash.

Sonoran Desert National Monument and Phoenix South Land Use Plans

- The scoping phase is underway. The scoping report was approved by the State Director on September 25, 2003. The planning effort is scheduled to be complete in 2006.

- Eleven (11) public scoping meetings were held between February 10, and March 6, 2003. Preliminary meetings were held in August and September 2002, with the Hopi Tribe, the Ak Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation to discuss consultation and cooperating agency status. BLM is working to schedule additional meetings with other Tribal Nations with interest in the public lands.
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the Tohono O'odham Nation, U.S. Forest Service, Luke Air Force Base and Barry Goldwater Range, ADOT, FHWA, INS and Border Patrol, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- A contract to help the Phoenix Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to URS Corporation in June 2003.
- Public meetings to develop alternatives were held during January and February 2004. **State Office review of preliminary alternatives began in December 2004. Public meetings on preliminary alternatives are being conducted during March 2005.**
- **The NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS is scheduled to be published on July 2005.**

Lake Havasu Land Use Plan

- Five open house meetings were held during November 2001. In addition, a series of community-based partnerships and ecosystems meetings were held in Lake Havasu City, Parker and Bullhead City to foster collaboration. The BLM Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) coordinated with federal, state, city, and county agencies and tribes.
- LHFO has received several hundred comments. Comments were grouped into four areas: 1) access to public lands, 2) additional boat ramps on the south end of Lake Havasu, 3) request for a trail around the Lake; and 4) no additional wilderness designations.
- August 13, 2002, the BLM Arizona State Office approved the Scoping Report for the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan. The alternative formulation stage began in September 2002.
- Six (6) public meeting were held between February 15, and February 24, 2003, to involve the public in formulating alternatives. The alternative formulation stage should be completed by late June 2003.
- LHFO did not receive any requests from agencies or tribes to be considered as a Cooperating Agency.

- **The RMP/EIS planning effort is nearing completion of the alternative formulation and impact analysis stages, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published in the Summer of 2005.**

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument/Vermilion Cliffs National Monument/Arizona Strip Field Office Land Use Plans

- The scoping period was conducted April 24, 2002, through July 31, 2002. Ten (10) public scoping open houses were held from May 28 through June 13, 2002.
- On July 22, 2002, a public scoping open house was held at Peach Springs, Arizona, at the request of the Hualapai Tribe. BLM also met with the tribal councils of all tribes in the Grand Canyon Region before the planning process began.
- Several community-based partnership and stewardship workshops were held in Arizona Strip communities by the BLM National Training Center and James Kent Associates to establish local collaboration.
- The Scoping Report was approved September 24, 2002.
- **The RMP/EIS planning effort is nearing completion of the alternative formulation and impact analysis stages, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published in the Spring of 2005.**
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the Hopi Tribe; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff, Arizona; Arizona State Game and Fish; State Land Department; ADOT, FHWA, and Mohave County. Coconino County is also interested, but has not responded formally.
- Access and transportation are the major issues for the planning effort, particularly OHV use. Other issues include wilderness and protection of the resources.
- There is overwhelming public response to leave the area as it is today – remote and isolated, with no services and diverse recreational experiences away from civilization.
- The planning effort is partially contracted. National Park Service and BLM staffs are primarily completing it, with assistance from Lake Mead National Recreation Area staff.

Ironwood Forest National Monument Land Use Plan

- The Notice of Intent to prepare a RMP for the Monument was published in the Federal

Register on April 24, 2002. Nine public scoping meetings were held in communities surrounding the Monument between July 10 and July 30, 2002.

- Over 10,000 comments letters were received, and the scoping report was developed. The scoping report was approved February 12, 2004
- A contract to help the Tucson Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to URS Corporation in July 2003.
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state, tribal and federal government entities in September 2002. Another round of 90 invitation letters was sent out in December 2003. Pima and Pinal Counties are considering formal cooperating agency status. Many of the contacted entities expressed interest in remaining engaged in the planning process, but are not prepared to enter into a formal cooperating agency agreement at this time.
- Major issues include: OHV use, grazing, target shooting, undocumented immigrants, transportation, user conflicts, public contact and visitor expectations.
- **State Office review of preliminary alternatives began in February 2005, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS is scheduled to be published on July 15, 2005.**

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Land Use Plan

- The BLM completed the RMP with the help of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP), through a five-year collaborative planning effort. The SVPP is a voluntary association of federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and private citizens who share a common interest in the resources and management of the public lands within the Sonoita Valley, including the upper watershed of Cienega Creek.
- The Approved RMP and Record of Decision were signed on July 25, 2003 by the Arizona State Director. **An Implementation Strategy is being developed with the assistance of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) and others.**

Arizona LUP Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Management

- The National Fire Policy needs to be incorporated into all of Arizona BLM's Land Use Plans (LUP's) by the 2004 fire season. The most recent comprehensive land use plan evaluations in Arizona indicated a need to update the fire decisions in every LUP. The proposal to amend the LUPs has been analyzed through an Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposal incorporates adaptive fire management into the LUPs and provides a consistent approach to incorporating the National Fire Policy.
- A contract for the preparation of the Arizona Statewide LUP Amendment was awarded to the Dynamac Corporation in September 2002.

- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to amend all of Arizona's land use plans was published in the Federal Register on January 27, 2003. The public comment period on the NOI ended March 14, 2003. Two planning bulletins were mailed to over 4000 individuals and public groups. Over 70 responses to the letters or planning bulletin worksheets were received. Overwhelming amounts of the responses support the amendment effort (90%). Concerns focused mostly on reduction of rangeland forage for cattle and logging large diameter trees.
- Letters extending cooperating agency status were sent to federal, state, county governments and Tribal contacts. The Prescott and Tonto National Forests, and the Grand Canyon National Park specifically asked to be kept informed of our efforts. Most of our Tribal partners have responded favorably and would like to be kept informed of the effort as well.
- The preliminary finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and supporting EA was released to the public on September 26, 2003, and was available for public review and comment until Monday, October 27, 2003. Seven comment letters were received.
- The notice of availability (NOA) for the Proposed LUP Amendment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment was published April 9, 2004. Release of the NOA began the 30-day protest period on the Proposed LUP Amendment, which closed on May 10, 2004. No letters of protest were received.
- **Arizona BLM received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion on September 3, 2004. The Statewide LUP Amendment and Decision Record was approved by the State Director on September 28, 2004.**

Yuma Land Use Plan

- The Yuma Field Office manages public lands under three land use plans and eight LUP amendments. The comprehensive land use plan evaluation was completed in December 2000.
- Fiscal year 2004 is the initial year of funding for the Yuma RMP revision. The Preparation Plan, which guides the development of the RMP, was approved on April 30, 2004.
- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the land use plan was published in the Federal Register on March 30, 2004. Four public scoping meetings were held during the first week of June 2004. These meetings were held in Yuma, Quartzsite, and Wellton, AZ, and Blythe, CA. **The scoping report was approved on September 28, 2004.**
- **This planning effort is being contracted, and the contract was awarded to Tetra Tech, Inc. in August 2004.**

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and Tucson Field Office Land Use Plans

- The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (San Pedro RNCA) is located within the Tucson Field Office. Public lands in the San Pedro RNCA are managed under the Safford RMP (1992, 1994) and San Pedro RNCA Management Plan (1989).
- Fiscal year 2004 is the initial year of funding for this planning effort. The San Pedro RNCA RMP will be combined with the Tucson Field Office RMP (Tucson RMP) under one planning effort. The Tucson RMP will address all remaining BLM administered lands not covered by the Las Cienegas NCA, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and San Pedro RNCA RMPs. **The Preparation Plan, which guides the development of the RMP, should be approved in April 2005.**
- **The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare both land use plans should be published in March 2005. The scoping report should be approved in September 2005.**
- **This planning effort will be a contracted, and the contract should be awarded in the spring of 2005.**



Implementation of New Wild Horse and Burro Authority as Directed by Congress

February 2005

SUMMARY:

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of implementing legislation recently passed by Congress. The legislation directs the BLM to offer for sale those wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption at least three times. We estimate that there are about 8,400 animals affected by this new law.

The BLM is working expeditiously to carry out the intent of Congress under the new law. We are also committed to our core mission of finding homes for these animals or alternative long-term care. We are appealing to interested groups, organizations and their membership, as well as the general public, to help us in this effort of finding homes for these animals.

In our efforts to place affected wild horses and burros in good care, we have been contacting various groups and organizations that may be interested in acquiring them. These contacts include wild horse and burro advocacy groups, Indian Tribes, and humane organizations. We are appealing to communities and the general public for help in finding homes for these animals as we work to meet the challenges we face in implementing the new law.

The BLM remains totally committed to its wild horse and burro adoption program, which was unchanged by the new law and will be kept separate from the new sale authority contained in the new legislation. Because these two programs are separate and different, the BLM will not be offering any animals for sale at its scheduled adoptions.

CONTACT:

Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, (602) 417-9500



Wild Horse and Burro Program

February 2005

FACTS

- The BLM has estimated that 8,400 wild horses and burros are affected by the new sale-authority law, which directs the BLM to sell "without limitation" animals that are more than 10 years old or have been unsuccessfully put up for adoption at least three times.
- There are about 37,000 wild horses and burros roaming on BLM-managed lands in 10 Western states. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes on the range can double about every five years.
- The current free-roaming population of 37,000 exceeds by some 9,000 the number that our agency has determined can exist in balance with other public rangeland resources. The appropriate management level is 28,000.
- Off the range, there are 24,000 other wild horses and burros that are fed and cared for at both short-term and long-term holding facilities.
- The cost for holding wild horses and burros in both short- and long-term facilities is projected to be \$20.1 million in Fiscal Year 2005. (At long-term facilities, the cost of caring and feeding for a wild horse or burro is about \$465 per animal per year.)
- In FY 2005, the BLM will spend \$39 million on the wild horse and burro program; this figure includes \$10.5 million that Congress added to the base funding level for the program. Thus, holding costs amount to more than half of what the BLM spends on its total wild horse and burro program.
- In FY 2005, the BLM will remove some 9,800 wild horses and burros from the public rangelands and will adopt out an estimated 7,150. The Bureau adopts out an average of 6,000 to 7,000 animals a year and since 1973 has placed more than 203,000 animals into private ownership.
- The BLM manages the nation's public lands for multiple uses (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976). The Bureau manages wild horses and burros as part of the mix of other legally authorized uses of these lands.
- The Bureau manages and wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (as amended by Congress in 1976, 1978, and 2004). To ensure control of herd sizes, the law authorizes the BLM to remove excess wild horses and burros from the range to maintain a thriving ecological balance on public lands.

CONTACT:

Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, (602) 417-9500

Congressional Tour - Agua Fria National Monument

March 23, 2005

8:00 a.m. Depart Phoenix Field Office

8:30 a.m. Arrive at Table Mesa Road

- Discuss known target practice concerns, safety issues, recent clean up of the area and future interagency management plans. BLM speakers: PFO Law Enforcement Ranger Patrick Brasington and PFO Recreation Team Lead Rich Hanson.

9:30 a.m. Depart for Agua Fria National Monument. Stop at Sunset Point Rest Area for restroom break

10:15 a.m. Arrive at Pueblo la Plata on Perry Mesa

- BLM will highlight ongoing cultural and ecological studies by universities and other partners; protection and interpretive development of prehistoric sites; management of pronghorn, native fish and other wildlife species; management of grazing allotments; and fuels reduction and weed control efforts. BLM speakers: Acting Monument Manager Clay Templin, Monument Archaeologist Connie Stone, and Monument Recreation Planner Mary Skordinsky.

Tour Pueblo la Plata to observe pueblo ruins, petroglyphs, and other archaeological features. Walk to rim of Silver Creek Canyon to observe riparian area in canyon.

12:00 p.m. Depart Agua Fria National Monument

1:00 p.m. Lunch at Rock Springs Café in Black Canyon City

2:15 p.m. Depart for Phoenix

3:00 p.m. Arrive at Phoenix Field Office

Congressional Tour - Ironwood Forest National Monument

March 23, 2004

7:30 a.m. Leave AZ State Office

9:00 a.m. Arrive Marana Airport, Avra Valley Road

9:30 a.m. Drive west on Avra Valley Road

- Discuss effects of Undocumented Immigrants (UDI) on the monument: trash, abandoned vehicles, criminal activities. BLM speakers: L.E. Ranger Vic Brown, Acting monument manager, Larry Shults, Planner, Shela McFarlin, International Borderlands Coordinator, Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs.

Tour UDI campsite if accessible

- Discuss cleanups and rehabilitation efforts lead by monument Park Ranger Maile Adler, and contractors from SCA (Student Conservation Association and Eco Careers Organization). BLM speaker: Maile Adler, Park Ranger, monument manager.

Noon Lunch at Sky Riders Café, Marana Airport

1:00 p.m. Depart café. Drive north on Pump Station Road.

Tour unauthorized shooting area

- Discuss safety and resource issues association with careless shooting; discuss shooting dialogue process and efforts to educate the public on responsible shooting. BLM speakers: Monument Manager, Larry Shults, Planner, Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs.

1:30 p.m. Drive west on Silverbell Road

Take scenic walk to base of Ragged Top Mountain

- Discuss planning issues, development within monument. BLM speakers: monument manager, Larry Shults, Planner.

2:30 p.m. Leave for Phoenix, via Sasco Road to Red Rock exit.

4:30 p.m. Arrive in Phoenix



Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI
01/21/2005 08:37 AM

To Andy_Jacobs@kyl.senate.gov,
Carlos_Sierra@mccain.senate.gov,
mary.baumbach@mail.house.gov,
ron.piceno@mail.house.gov,
maura.saavedra@mail.house.gov,
Latoya.cunningham@mail.house.gov,
bruce.raden@mail.house.gov,
kay.mcloughlin@mail.house.gov,
bernadette.polley@mail.house.gov,
joanne.keene@mail.house.gov,
shari.farrington@mail.house.gov,
gloria.montano@mail.house.gov,
glenn.miller@mail.house.gov,
rachel.kondor@mail.house.gov,
ruben.reyes@mail.house.gov,
brian.murray@mail.house.gov

cc

bcc

Subject February 24 Briefing

Hi Everyone,

We have scheduled the next Bureau of Land Management quarterly congressional staff briefing for Thursday, February 24 at 9 a.m. We will hold the meeting here at the BLM Office, 222 N. Central Avenue. I'll get more information to you as the date draws closer. Let me know if there are any topics of interest you would like to see on the agenda. Also, I would appreciate it if you could let me know that this date works for you by responding to this email. Thanks and I'll see you soon!

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX



Sierra, Carlos (McCain Staff)
<Carlos_Sierra@mccain.senate.gov>

01/21/2005 08:47 AM

To <Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: February 24 Briefing

Works for me Joanie.

Thanks,
Carlos

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov [mailto:Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2005 8:38 AM
To: Jacobs, Andy (Kyl); Sierra, Carlos (McCain);
mary.baumbach@mail.house.gov; ron.piceno@mail.house.gov;
maura.saavedra@mail.house.gov; Latoya.cunningham@mail.house.gov;
bruce.raden@mail.house.gov; kay.mcloughlin@mail.house.gov;
bernadette.polley@mail.house.gov; joanne.keene@mail.house.gov;
shari.farrington@mail.house.gov; gloria.montano@mail.house.gov;
glenn.miller@mail.house.gov; rachel.kondor@mail.house.gov;
ruben.reyes@mail.house.gov; brian.murray@mail.house.gov
Subject: February 24 Briefing

Hi Everyone,

We have scheduled the next Bureau of Land Management quarterly congressional staff briefing for Thursday, February 24 at 9 a.m. We will hold the meeting here at the BLM Office, 222 N. Central Avenue. I'll get more information to you as the date draws closer. Let me know if there are any topics of interest you would like to see on the agenda. Also, I would appreciate it if you could let me know that this date works for you by responding to this email. Thanks and I'll see you soon!

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX



**Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI**
02/16/2005 10:54 AM

To Congressional Local
cc Deborah Stevens/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI
bcc
Subject REMINDER of 2/24 Briefing

Hi Everyone,

This is a reminder of the BLM Quarterly Congressional staff briefing scheduled for Thursday, February 24, at 9 a.m. We'll meet at the BLM office at 222 N. Central Avenue. If anyone needs more information, directions, etc., give me a call or send an email. I look forward to seeing all of you next week!

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX



"Caballero, Crystal
\\(McCain\\)"
<Crystal_Caballero@mccain.
senate.gov>

03/01/2005 02:44 PM

To <joanie_losacco@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject BLM Meeting

Hi Joanie! I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for sending me the information from the meeting last week. I apologize for no one showing up from our office, but there seemed to be some confusion as to who was attending. I will now be your point of contact here at the Phoenix office and will be attending any meetings. Again, thank you for the info and I look forward to meeting you!

Crystal B. Caballero
Legislative Liaison
U.S. Senator John McCain
5353 North 16th Street, Suite 105
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602.952.2410